



# Photonics Technician Certification

A program to develop the process  
for certifying and recertifying  
photonics technicians

# Background of the Program

- **WORKFORCE FLORIDA (WFL)** has identified optics/photonics as one of the “New & Emerging Markets” of key value to Florida.
- A critical need of the Florida photonics industry is a reliable local supply of technicians skilled in photonics.
- Although there are currently photonics education/training programs at Indian River State College (IRSC) and Valencia Community College (VCC), there are no certification criteria for photonics technicians anywhere in the US, a situation that creates several problems:
  - a) it makes it very difficult for companies to find and hire the appropriate, needed skills
  - b) it limits the effectiveness and credibility of the education/training programs at IRSC and VCC and makes it more difficult to recruit students into the program
  - c) it limits the credentials of the graduates of the training programs, making it more difficult for them to qualify for higher-paying technician positions



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## ■ Primary Objectives:

- Develop the necessary criteria for certifying and recertifying photonics technicians, and will establish the process for maintaining, updating, and administering the certification program to meet the needs of Florida industry
- Create a long-term sustainable program to meet the continuing needs of the Florida's and the nation's photonics companies



# Photonics Technician Certification Program

- The Florida Photonics Cluster, with strong support from OP-TEC and CREOL, proposed and was awarded a contract – announced in late June.
- Program is expected to start in August 2009 and will be administered through UCF.



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## – Program Goals

- **Form an “Advisory Committee” of representative Florida photonics employers” to review the National Photonics Technician Skill Standards and the Precision Optics Skill Standards that have recently been created/updated by OP-TEC.**
- **Develop criteria and certification standards for three different types of optics and photonics technicians:**
  - **Photonics Specialist**
  - **Photonics Operators**
  - **Precision Optics Technician**
- **Establish the process for Photonics Technician Certification in Florida & eventually the USA**